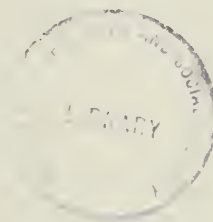


BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1969

1969

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

Mayor:

Councillor Mrs. E. D. Embleton

Deputy Mayor:

Alderman T. Lambourne

Public Health Committee:

(Full Council)

Chairman Alderman T. Lambourne

Coun. R. W. Y. Abbs.

Alderman A. G. F. Marriott.

" S. C. Bain.

Coun. J. T. Murray.

Alderman H. E. Cornwall.

" J. F. G. Piper.

" Mrs. D. J. Elkerton

" D. J. Pullen.

Coun. A. R. Deaves.

" J. T. Roberts.

" Mrs. E. D. Embleton.

" C. F. H. Smith.

" D. A. T. Foote.

" K. C. Vernon.

" Miss M. MacManus.

Public Health Staff

Medical Officer of Health:

P. Lavis, M.B. Ch.B. D.P.H. (The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham R.D.C., Bletchley U.D.C., Winslow R.D.C., Newport Pagnell U.D.C., Newport Pagnell R.D.C., and Wolverton U.D.C., and Divisional School M.O. for North Bucks and Buckingham and Winslow District and Area Medical Officer for North Bucks)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

S. Hetherington, M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Health Inspector:

R. Taylor, M.S.I.A.,

Deputy Health Inspector:

F. Swinson, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Secretary:

Telephone: Buckingham 2295

Miss J. E. Howlett.

BOROUGH OF BUCKINGHAM

Castle House,
West Street,
Buckingham.

Madam Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1969.

Vital Statistics

As far as the vital statistics are concerned, there is little change from previous years, similar trends continuing. The figures are too small for any firm conclusions to be drawn from them, and in some cases they are not a true reflection of the general state. However, more sophisticated and reliable data collection methods are being evolved which should result in more accurate and useful figures in the future.

The main feature of the infectious diseases sphere was an abortive outbreak of influenza during the winter of 1968/69 which never really became established. However, a further visit by this Hong Kong influenza variant occurred towards the end of the year, and this second outbreak reached epidemic proportions by the second week of December. Symptoms were classical in type and affected especially the adult section of the population. I was anticipating being able to report on this occasion that sufficient measles vaccination had been carried out to prevent any further epidemics. Difficulties in supply of a suitable vaccine brought the programme to a halt, and at the end of the year there was no definite prospect when it could be resumed.

We continue to regard health education as an important part of a Health Department's work. There appeared to be encouraging signs on the horizon that people are beginning to pay more sensible attention to matters of health. Concern is expressed about known and possible hazards being created by society as a by-product of "technological progress". The solution to these problems will largely depend upon action by society as a whole.

However, we still have to convince some people that they deliberately put themselves at risk by their own actions; to name but two individual activities, cigarette smoking and dietary over-indulgence. Lung cancer, often after long unpleasant illness causes premature death, preventing many from receiving one penny of their pensions. We must recognise that this form of drug addiction is fostered and maintained by advertising techniques which result in people making curious rationalisations to explain away their actions.

Many still need convincing that over-weight is also hazardous. The warning signs in early middle-age are too often ignored. Apart from excessive carbohydrate intake, the wisdom of consuming quantities of refined sugar at the present rates leads one to suspect that coronary heart disease in particular will continue to increase in the future. If sugar and tobacco had had to be submitted to the

Committee on the Safety of Drugs, it would have been reached with far more reason that was the case for the cyclamate withdrawal.

An encouraging sign is that there is a slight move towards greater participation in sport. A few years ago there seemed to be a danger that the nation was becoming "chairbound" - whether at home, work, or in cars. The various ways of encouraging physical activities by ensuring adequate sporting facilities can be measured beyond £ s d. as there is a concomitant improvement in mental attitude in addition. We must reach the generation that might feel it has missed these opportunities - the 40 plus age group. Many will feel they are too old to start. They must be convinced that "slowing up" is not an inevitable accompaniment of growing up.

I have to report that the mobile Radiography Unit has now withdrawn its regular services in this area. It has proved its value in the past, and this reduction in service will cause some difficulties to people living in an area where there are few alternative facilities and public transport so inadequate.

I must thank the Council members for their continued interest and concern with public health matters, and for the time and energy they devote to the subject.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

P. Lavis

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28961043>

Vital Statistics

							<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,367	5,367
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,890	4,970
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,800	1,850
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	238,398	246,943
Rate per £1	...	...	...	...	...	...	12/10d.	14/2d.
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	910	930

BIRTHS:

	M	F		
Legitimate	38	37	85	75
Illegitimate	1	2	4	3
Birth rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)			19.5	16.8
" " " " " (England & Wales)			16.9	16.3
Still Births			1	Nil

DEATHS:

		45	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population (adjusted)		9.5	9.1
" " " " " (England & Wales)		11.9	11.9

INFANT MORTALITY:

(Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births)					11	Nil
					(One death)	
England and Wales	...	...	...	...	18	18

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

Notified cases:-	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
Measles	18	9
Meningitis	--	1
Jaundice	--	1

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH:

					<u>1969</u>			<u>1968</u>		
					<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>T</u>
Cancer:	Stomach	...	...	...	0	1	1	2	0	2
	Lung, bronchus	...	...	...	2	0	2	0	1	1
	Other	...	...	...	2	1	3	3	3	6
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	12	10	22	9	5	14
Circulatory disease	...	...	...	...	4	3	7	5	3	8
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	4	0	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3	0	3	1	3	4
Accident	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	1	0	1
All other causes	...	...	...	...	3	3	6	2	3	5
					<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
					26	18	44	27	18	45

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

AMBULANCE SERVICE: Administered by Bucks County Council from Aylesbury Station, North Bucks Station at Buckingham and Bletchley.

HOSPITALS: Under the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, Patients are treated at Buckingham, Aylesbury and Oxford. Certain Outpatient facilities are available in Buckingham.

LABORATORY: Walton Street, Oxford (Tel. 49231)

DISTRICT NURSING/MIDWIFERY: Area Superintendent:- Mrs. Riley (at Area Health Office, Bletchley) - Tel. 4701

HEALTH VISITORS: Flat 1, Verney Close, (Tel. 3395) Area Superintendent:- Mrs. D. L. Marrett (At Area Health Office)

SOCIAL WORKERS: Medical, Welfare, Blind, Mental Health, Area Officer - Mr. P. K. Smith at Area Health Office, Bletchley.

HOME HELP SERVICE: Area Organiser - Mrs. E. N. Franklin.
Assistant Organiser - Mrs. Frances (Tel. Bletchley 4701)

CHILD WELFARE CLINIC: Held twice monthly in the Congregational Chapel Hall.

CHILDREN DEPARTMENT: Area Child Care Officer: Miss J. M. Walker (Tel: Bletchley 4701)

INDUSTRIAL UNIT: Whaddon Way, Bletchley.

CONTRACEPTION ADVICE: Weekly Clinics are held at Whalley Drive Health Clinic Bletchley by the Family Planning Association (by appointment)

DENTAL CLINIC: Verney Close, treatment offered to children and expectant mothers.

HEALTH EDUCATION: Area Organiser - Mr. T. Watson at Area Health Office, Bletchley.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE: Administered from Area Health Office. This includes arrangements for the examination of pupils in accordance with the Education Act, ascertainment of handicapped and advising appropriate treatment, vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria, poliomyelitis, tetanus and tuberculosis is carried out.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. WATER

The Borough is one of the few small authorities still responsible for its own supplies, and this factor reflects in the moderate charges made for this essential service. In the absence of specialised staff, full use is made of the Public Health Laboratory service at Oxford and also the County Analysts department.

The addition of fluoride to the supply was not implemented, as was hoped during the year owing to the difficulty in obtaining delivery of the necessary diluting equipment for the acid and the manufacturers have been pressed to expedite this matter.

The new supply and treatment works at Gawcott has operated for a full year. The yield of one of the boreholes deteriorated and an acid treatment was carried out on both boreholes. This resulted in a temporary improvement only, and after much discussion in Council the decision was taken to sink a third borehole with a gravel packed lining to reduce the possibility of the blockage of the screen tubes which was the cause of the yield failure.

A part-time member of the staff has been trained in the use of the fluoride analysis equipment and the natural fluoride levels in the water from Maids Moreton and Gawcott are monitored daily, this information will prove valuable in the future.

Metered supplies to industry and commerce accounted for 23,999,845 gallons during the year.

Average consumption per head per day which includes the above figure was 56.05 gallons.

Total quantity of water supplied during the year was 102,304,390 gallons, an increase since last year of .404 million gallons.

Peak daily consumption recorded was 342,800 gallons.

42 bacteriological examinations of the raw water were made, all proved satisfactory.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC WATER - GAWCOTT

Appearance.....Clear and Bright
Colour.....Less than 5 Hazen Units
Taste.....Normal
Odour.....Absent

Results in parts per million

Total Solid residue dried at 105°C.....	614
Chlorides as Chlorion.....	58
Nitrate Nitrogen.....	absent
Nitrite Nitrogen.....	absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen.....	0.26
Albuminoid Nitrogen.....	0.10
Oxygen absorbed, 4hrs. at 27°C.....	0.03
Total hardness as CaCO ₃	316
Non-carbonate hardness as CaCO ₃	
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	330
Poisonous metals	absent
pH.....	7.3

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC WATER - BUCKINGHAM

Appearance.....Clear and Bright
ColourLess than 5 Hazen Units
TasteNormal
Odourabsent

	Results in parts per million
Total Solid residue dried at 105°C.....	836
Chlorides as Chlorion.....	77
Nitrate Nitrogen.....	absent
Nitrite Nitrogen.....	absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen.....	0.49
Albuminoid Nitrogen.....	0.08
Oxygen absorbed, 4 hrs at 27°C.....	0.13
Total hardness as CaCO ₃	274
Non-carbonate hardness ³ as CaCO ₃	
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	336
Poisonous metals	absent
pH.....	7.5

2. SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Buckingham works continues to produce a satisfactory effluent.

No firm conclusions have been reached on the methods to be adopted to deal with additional flows resulting from town expansion. Visits have been made to other authorities to investigate new projects for evaluation in this sphere.

The Gawcott works continue to cause problems, with consequent pressure from the River Authority to secure improvements.

It is proposed to construct a tertiary treatment bed for final effluent in the hope that an improvement will occur.

Meanwhile we expect to hear from the County Council on the future development of the Gawcott area.

3. REFUSE DISPOSAL

The weekly back door collection continues. In common with others the labour situation is at times rather tenuous and one is forced to admit that operatives in this essential service seem to be loosing ground when compared with industrial workers, in the wages spiral.

No progress has been made with regard to a joint authorities disposal system, and meetings have not continued. It has not yet been necessary to use the tipping facilities at Calvert.

4. SWIMMING POOL

The Pool enjoyed good support during the summer season.

Season ticket sales produced	£156. 4. 6d.
Gate receipts produced	£779. 0. 6d.
Refreshment sales	£411. 11. 0d.
Schools contribution	£192. 0. 0d.

5. FACTORIES

No matters calling for special attention have been reported.

34 outworkers were notified to the Council during 1969.

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

During the year 71 premises were registered. 49 visits were made to registered premises, but no conditions were found which merited prosecution.

THE FACTORIES ACT 1961

The number of persons employed at registered premises were:-

Males 214

Females 305

Premises	Number on Inspections Register		Written Notices	Prosec- utions
i. Non-Mechanical Factories Sections 1 - 6	7	15	Nil	Nil
ii Mechanical Factories Section 7	31	24	Nil	Nil
iii Other Premises Section 7	7	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	45	39	Nil	Nil

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND

CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	257	-	4	1204	667	Nil
Number inspected	257	-	4	1204	667	Nil
Whole carcasses excluding Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	3	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	34	-	Nil	110	101	Nil
% of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	12.6	-	Nil	9.13	15.0	Nil
Tuberculosis. Some part or organ.	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	9	Nil
% of inspected affected with Tuberculosis	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	0.74	Nil
Cysticercus Bovis. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	-	Nil
Cysticercus Bovis submitted to treatment by refrigeration	Nil	-	Nil	Nil	-	Nil

6. PUBLIC MORTUARY

The Mortuary situated in the Council Yard in the High Street is used by the two local authorities mainly in connection with fatal road casualties.

D. HOUSING

15 private and 22 Council houses were completed during the year.

E. Report of Public Health Inspector

NUISANCES, CONTRAVENTION OF BYELAWS ETC.

Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	49			
Nuisances found as a result of inspection	...	...	7				
Nuisances abated	...	....	...	...	...	...	7
Statutory Notices served	....	...	...	...	...	Nil	
Prosecutions	...	....	...	...	...	...	Nil

Visits to houses and premises under PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS 1936 and 1961 and FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Dairies	...	....	...	...	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Butchers Shops	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	193
Foodshops	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Restaurants	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Schools	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Slaughterhouses	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	184
Knacker's Yards	....	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	296

Close attention has been paid to food premises, having regard to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

The number of premises affected by the regulations being 71 and falling into the following categories:-

Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	4
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	16
Stalls	...	...	...	...	8
Canteens	...	...	...	...	7
Food Shops	...	...	...	...	33
Dairies	...	...	...	...	3

The number of premises registered under Section 6 of the Food and Drugs Act is 17 and all such premises are regularly inspected.

All food premises have been supplied with extracts from the Food Hygiene Regulations.

PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928

Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit	28
Inspection of Petroleum Stores	35

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949

Work under this heading has continued to occupy a large amount of time, and much good work has been done in this direction throughout the year. The following is a brief summary of the work carried out:-

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	75
Number of premises treated for rats	...	...	...	50
Number of premises treated for mice	...	...	...	30
Estimated number of rats destroyed	...	...	...	100
Actual rats' bodies found	...	...	...	37
Visits for inspection and survey	...	...	...	60
Visits for baiting and exterminations	...	...	...	80

RENNIE TAYLOR,

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

